

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~, specifically an ~~artificial intervertebral disk~~, comprising a central axis (2), an upper section (10), suitable for laying onto the base plate of a vertebral body lying above, and a lower section (20) suitable for laying onto the cover plate of a vertebral body lying below, wherein:

~~A)~~ the upper section (10) ~~is provided with~~ has a ventral side area (11), a dorsal side area (12), two lateral side areas (13,14), a top apposition surface (15), and a bottom surface (16);

~~B)~~ the lower section (20) ~~is provided with~~ has a ventral side area (21), a dorsal side area (22), two lateral side areas (23,24), a bottom apposition surface (25), and a top surface (26); and

~~C)~~ the two sections (10,20) are moveable in relation to each other ~~by means of~~ via two joints (38,39) arranged between the two sections (10,20), wherein:

~~D)~~ each of the joints (38,39) ~~is provided with~~ has a swivel axle (3;4) and the two swivel axles (3;4) are arranged transversely or perpendicular to each other;

~~E)~~ the two joints (38,39) ~~are realized by means of~~ comprise an upper joint element (31) connected with the upper section (10), a central joint element (32), and a lower joint element (33) connected with the lower section (20); and

~~F)~~ each joint (38,39) comprises a first joint element (31;32;33) with at least one axle (34;36) coaxial to the swivel axle (3;4) and a second joint element (31;32;33) with at least one bearing shell (35;37) receiving the axle (34;36), wherein:

~~G)~~ roll bodies (70) are inserted between the axles (34;36) and the bearing shells (35;37).

2. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the central joint element (32) coaxial to the swivel axle (3) comprises at least one axle (36) belonging to the lower joint (39) and the lower joint element (33) comprises at least one bearing shell (37) receiving the axle (36).

3. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the upper joint element (31) coaxial to the swivel axle (4) comprises at least one axle (34) belonging to the upper joint (38) and the central joint element (32) comprises at least one bearing shell (35) receiving the axle (34).

4. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, wherein the roll bodies (70) are rotation-symmetric bodies, ~~preferably balls~~.

5. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, wherein the bearing shells (35;37) ~~are provided with~~ have grooves (71), in which the roll bodies (70) are conducted in axial direction.

6. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, wherein the axles (34;36) ~~are provided with~~ have grooves (71), in which the roll bodies (70) are conducted in axial direction.

7. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5, wherein the grooves (71) in the cross-section area orthogonal to the swivel axle (3;4) are arranged in a circular arc with a sector angle between 0° and 180°.

8. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising a means (40) is provided that keeps~~ for keeping the two sections (10;20), measured at their ventral side areas (11;21), at a fixed distance from each other.

9. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising a means (40) is provided that is suitable~~ for causing temporary blocking of the mobility of the two sections (10;20) around the joints (38;39).

10. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 8, wherein the means (40) can be attached to the two ventral side areas (11;21) of the two sections (10;20).

11. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 9, wherein the means (40) comprises an insert (41) with a lower end (45) and an upper end (46) and a depression (42;43) in the surfaces (16;26) at each of the two sections (10;20), which are open on the ventral side areas (11;21), and that the insert (41) with its ends (45;46) can be inserted into each of the depressions (42;43).

12. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 11, wherein the depressions (42;43) are dovetail guides and the ends (45;46) on the insert (41) are arranged complementary to these dovetail guides.

13. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 12, wherein the dovetail guides are tapered from the ventral side areas (11;21) towards the dorsal side areas (12;22).

14. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the upper and the lower sections (10;20) each comprises at least two drill holes (80) running through from the ventral side areas (11;21) to the apposition surfaces (15;25) with longitudinal axes (83) for receiving bone fixation devices (81).

15. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 14, wherein the longitudinal axes (83) or the drill holes (80) make an angle γ with the central axis (2).

16. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 15, wherein the angle γ lies in a range of between 20° and 65°.

17. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 14, wherein the longitudinal axes (83) of the drill holes (80) as seen from the ventral side areas (11;21) diverge from the inner surfaces (16;26) against the apposition surfaces (15;25).

18. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 14, wherein the drill holes (80) are conically tapered towards the apposition surfaces (15;25).

19. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 14, wherein the drill holes (80) ~~are provided with~~ have an internal thread (82).

20. (currently amended) A process for the replacement of a ~~defect~~ defective, natural intervertebral disk ~~characterized by an intervertebral implant, comprising the steps:~~

A) ~~blocking of the one or more joint(s) (38;39) of an intervertebral implant (1) through the special~~ with blocking means (40) inserted in a certain position of the joint(s) (38;39);

B) ~~insertion of~~ inserting the intervertebral implant (1) into the an intervertebral space to be treated; and

C) ~~release~~ releasing and ~~removal of~~ removing the ~~device (40)~~ blocking means inserted into the intervertebral implant (1) for blocking the joint(s) (38;39).

21. (currently amended) The process according to ~~Claim~~ claim 20, additionally comprising ~~the step of the~~ subsequent blocking of the joint(s) ~~(38;39)~~ on the implanted intervertebral implant ~~(1) through~~ with the blocking means ~~(40)~~.